

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

New claims 64-67 have been added and are drawn to the mutant *B. mallei* strain GB8:bpmI3. Support for the new claims is found throughout the application and claims as originally filed.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect with traverse, the invention of Group XV, claims 49-54, 56, and 58-60, drawn to a *B. mallei* strain with a mutated *bmaI3* gene. New claims 64-67, dependent on elected claims, are believed to be part of the elected invention. Applicants kindly request consideration of the new claims as part of the invention of Group XV.

Applicants reserve the right to prosecute non-elected claims in a separate continuation or divisional application. Applicants request that the specific method groups that call on a product be rejoined should the claims for the product be allowable.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is
respectfully solicited.



Respectfully submitted,

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